

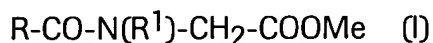
On page 6, line 32, in the phrase "saturated and has one to three double bonds," change "and" to -- or --.

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims ~~30-34~~ without prejudice.

Please amend Claims 29, 35-39, 41-45, and 47-48 as follows:

29. (Amended) A spreading material comprising a porous flat[-shaped] structure impregnated with a wetting agent, wherein the wetting agent is N-oleoyl-sarcosinate [comprises an N-acyl-glycinate of formula I



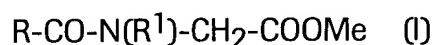
in which R represents an aliphatic group with 9 to 23 carbon atoms, the aliphatic group being saturated or comprising one to three double bonds,

R¹ represents hydrogen or a lower alkyl group and

Me is hydrogen or a metal atom].

35. (Amended) The spreading material of claim 29 wherein the spreading material comprises 0.01 to 2.0 % by weight of [the] N-oleoyl-sarcosinate [acyl-glycinates of formula I] relative to the weight of the material before impregnation.
36. (Amended) The spreading material of claim 29 wherein the porous flat[-shaped] structure comprises a textile sheet material made of monofilaments or corresponding multifilament yarns.

37. (Amended) The spreading material of claim 29 wherein the porous flat[-shaped] structure comprises a fabric or fleece material with a weight per unit area of 10 to 200 g/m².
38. (Amended) The spreading material of claim 29 wherein the porous flat[-shaped] structure has at least one of a thickness of 20 to 200 μm and a pore volume of 30 to 85%.
39. (Amended) A process for producing a spreading material comprising the steps of providing a porous flat[-shaped] structure and impregnating the porous flat[-shaped] structure with a wetting agent, wherein the wetting agent is N-oleoyl-sarcosinate [comprising an N-acyl-glycinate of formula I

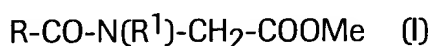


in which R represents an aliphatic group with 9 to 23 carbon atoms, the aliphatic group being saturated or comprising one to three double bonds,

R¹ represents hydrogen or a lower alkyl group and

Me is hydrogen or a metal atom].

41. (Amended) A test strip comprising a flexible flat[-shaped] support on which one or several test fields are arranged next to one another, wherein said test fields carry one or several detection layers stacked on top of one another, and wherein the test fields are covered by an overlay made of a spreading material comprising a porous flat[-shaped] structure impregnated with a wetting agent, wherein the wetting agent is N-oleoyl-sarcosinate [comprising an N-acyl-glycinate of formula I



in which R represents an aliphatic group with 9 to 23 carbon atoms, the aliphatic group being saturated or comprising one to three double bonds,

R¹ represents hydrogen or a lower alkyl group and

Me is hydrogen or a metal atom].

42. (Amended) The test strip of claim 41 wherein the overlay comprises one or several flat-shaped overlay elements which are attached to the test strip in such a way that a part of their surface can be displaced freely relative to the strip surface when the test strip is bent towards a side on which the overlay is located [covered by this part in the direction of curvature produced when the object is bent].
43. (Amended) The test strip of claim 42 wherein the test fields are covered by the parts of the overlay elements that can be displaced freely relative to the strip surface [displaceable zones of an overlay comprising two elements].
44. (Amended) The test strip of claim 42 wherein the overlay comprises two overlay elements whose parts that can be displaced freely relative to the strip surface [displaceable regions] face one another and overlap.
45. (Amended) The test strip of claim 44 wherein the overlap [of the two overlay elements is above the separation line between the] covers two test fields [and preferably symmetrical thereto].
47. (Amended) The test strip of claim 41 wherein the arrangement of detection layers and overlays on the test strip is covered with an inert flat[-shaped] material in such a manner that a space only remains free that is adequate for sample application in an overlap region of the overlay elements viewed in the direction of the longitudinal axis of the test strip.
48. (Amended) The test strip of claim 41 wherein the hydrophilicity, transparency and

liquid conducting capacity of the overlay material are matched in such a manner that a sample excess is not taken up by the strip [an analyte sample is distributed over the entire analyte-sensitive region of the test carrier, the test strip is self-dosing and excess sample remains above the application spot].